

September 13, 2006

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Gloria Lowe. Hopefully, you will listen to the concerns that I have with HB 6430. My granddaughter is on the Sex Offender Registry for having consensual sex at age 19 with a 15 year old male, and served 2-½ years in prison for that very BAD choice. She is now attending U of D/Mercy, being inducted into the Honors Program October 1st. She testified, along with several others having similar circumstances, in front of a Sub-Committee of this Body in March with the hope that the structural flaws of the Registry would be repaired.

Legislators continue to treat everyone on the list as “violent predators”, making laws to include ALL, no matter what the offense.....adding to the injustice. Federal statistics show the recidivism rate that may re-offend to be 5.7%, and 94.3% of new offenses are committed by new offenders, yet Michigan is punishing all 100%. The majority of offenders are adhering to their stipulations trying to live somewhat normal lives (which is very difficult with ALL their personal information displayed to the nation, making them very vulnerable for abuse) while the violent criminal ignores all obligations and continues to do evil. This is definitely destroying more young lives than it's saving. My heart breaks for all these young adults. Has anyone taken this into consideration?

What criteria constitutes a “commercial social networking website?” Would not a college student at sometime need to access such a website for research? College students use the “Face Book” website all the time to communicate with their friends and classmates.

I thought that the website “My Space” had proven to be a very effective tool in recent months with the arrest of several pedophiles, including a government official.

Would it not be wise for parents to restrict the computer from underage children's use? My computer came with a key.

Can the government protect all the children.....shouldn't parents have the responsibility to teach their children of the dangers that lurk in the world? I think so.

How in the world will this new legislation be enforced?

And, most importantly, how will it be funded?

The greater concern for society-at-large, in my opinion, would be to instead of creating MORE confusing, and difficult-to-enforce laws, strive to eliminate the main source of the problem; the troubling websites.

Thank you so much for your time.

Gloria Lowe
952 N. Meadow Lane
Brooklyn, MI. 49230
Ghawgatha@frontiernet.net